

THE **ECONOMIC JOURNAL**

The Quarterly Journal of the ROYAL ECONOMIC SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 1933

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and the recommendation for sterilization then went forward on therapeutic grounds. It was interesting to learn that the Burg-hölzli institution had almost as many patients at a time boarded out on licence as in hospital.

In replying to questions and discussion, Professor Maier stated that differences in practice existed between the various Cantons. Nevertheless, the line of demarcation of feeble-mindedness was much the same throughout the country, and comparable with that which was adopted in South Germany. Great care was taken in Zürich not to operate on patients under twenty, in order to ensure correct differentiation between cases of late development and those of true defect. As to the eugenic results, Professor Maier pointed out that such conservative work as had up to the present been carried out could not be expected to do more than prevent an increase in the prevalence of the

disorders with which they were concerned. It was true that "carriers" could present themselves for operation, but at present such cases came mostly from highly intelligent families, so that some loss had to be set against the gain. It would be by the spread of such demands among those who were relatively ill-endowed by nature that discernible eugenic results could be anticipated.

This brief summary can give only the most inadequate indication of the importance of Professor Hans Maier's paper for students of the problems that formed its subject. For an accurate picture of the Swiss experience of sterilization, and surveys of the social effects of this measure as well as its effects on the patients themselves, the complete paper must be consulted.*

* Professor Maier's paper will be published in full in our next issue.

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Committee for the Scientific Study of Population Problems a discussion was held on the eugenic side of this problem, the economic side having been treated the previous year. The Committee (chairman, Dr. Methorst) is continuing its investigation of 135 Netherlands communities with regard to the relation between the annual income and the number of children in the family, taking the marriages during the years 1907-11 (for a period ending in 1927). The results will be compared with those of an identical investigation that had been made previously upon the

marriages during the years 1877-81 (for a period ending in 1897). The report of the preliminary work was published in the Proceedings of the International Population Union, 1931.

Amongst the Netherlands literature on human heredity and eugenics of last year I have to mention the very valuable book by Dr. P. J. Waardenburg on the heredity of the eye. This work (which is in the German language) appeared just after my survey on eugenics in Holland in this REVIEW a year ago.



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and so forth, and has elicited various interesting and important facts.

Of these I may mention that in this sample of children "The degree of resemblance in dizygotic twins of like or opposite sex is not appreciably different from that met with in all pairs of children born to the same parents at different times, regardless of the intervals between the births." Which confirms the popular belief.

Also "Monozygotic twins tend to be taller and heavier, during childhood at least, than dizygotic twins of the same ages," and I may add they appeared to be superior in other characters, even to their other brothers and sisters. This seems to raise the question whether the superiority was due to the twinning or vice versa.

Dr. Stocks has also investigated the intelligence of the children both by testing the "I.Q." and by taking the teachers'

opinions, and he makes the interesting observation that the I.Q. cannot be supposed to measure merely the innate abilities of the child: it is certainly affected by the general intellectual status of the family. In particular the child is influenced by his elder siblings and by his twin, if any.

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The printing is wonderful, as is usual with the Cambridge Press, but I fancy that I have discovered one mistake: No. 28 pair of like-sexed twins are D by the B5 test, not M as in the last Table.

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would soon have been broken, their spirit crushed and their life's work left unfulfilled. Whatever therefore we may feel about the personality of Dr. Stopes, and some of the methods by which she has achieved her ends, we can but admire such courage and such attainments. Very few women—or men—could have done what she has done.

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The experimental work of Rollinat and Trouessart, Grosser, Courrier, Nakano and Redenz is carefully summarized and this is followed by a review of the conditions which favour the survival of spermatozoa. The first important factor appears to be the temperature, and examples are given to illustrate this point. The second factor which influences the longevity of these cells is the nature of the medium of suspension, since their energy is dependent upon this factor. If it has such a composition that the spermatozoa are activated then immobility (associated with death) will rapidly follow; if, on the other hand, a state of quiescence is merely brought about (conservation of energy), then the survival period would appear to be almost indefinitely prolonged.

The question as to the season at which copulation occurs is next dealt with, and this is followed by a

summary in which it is stated that bats generally mate in the autumn after the post-partum involution of the female generative organs is complete; a new cycle may be said to have commenced. In the male the epididymis is greatly distended, a condition which is shared by the other accessory glands; this state lasts till the spring.

In conclusion, Dr. Hartmann points out that proof has not yet been forthcoming to establish the fact that the spermatozoa which are ejaculated in the autumn are those which will fertilize the female in the spring, since copulation does occur repeatedly during the interval. It is nevertheless proven that spermatozoa are capable of long life, both within the epididymis of the male and within the reproductive organs of the female, if the previously discussed factors are favourable.

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* Fellowship, £1 1 0; Membership, 10/-; Composition for Life Fellowship, Ten guineas. The Secretary will be pleased to send a banker's order form—for regular payment—to any who prefer it.